THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Government of Punjab have decided to grant relief at the rate of Rs. 20,000/- to the next of kin of each of the persons who died in incidents of mob action, action by security forces, agitations etc. since 1st August, 1982. The next of kin of persons who were killed but did not actively participate/assist in resisting the action by the security forces during the Operation Blue Star will also be eligible for the grant of relief at the rate of Rs. 20,000/-.

(c) A Committee has been set up by the State Government to ensure the implementation of the decision.

Terrorist activities against India from Pakistan

*56. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
DR. H. P. SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have urged the Government of Pakistan to take appropriate steps to prevent terrorist activities from across the border in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Pakistan has denied giving assistance to the terrorists. However, the facts are to the contrary and their reply is not satisfactory to us.

Decision making in the Central Government Offices

*57. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a plan to speed up decision making in the Central Government offices;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the plan is likely to be given effect to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE: (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Ministries have been asked to take measures to speed up decision making. The suggested measures include decentralisation, increased delegation of powers, enforcement of accountability and simplification of rules and procedures. Ministries have been specially asked to review the time factor involved in the disposal of different types of references received by them to identify causes for delay and streamline procedures and set up suitable monitoring arrangements.

Curbing of Terrorist Activities by Pakistan and India

*58. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have held any discussion recently with the Government of Pakistan for curbing terrorism; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) During the recent visit of Foreign Minister of Pakistan, the attention of the Pakistan Government was again drawn to specific instances of assistance given to terrorists. The Pakistan Government has been denying giving any such assistance. However, the facts are to the contrary and their reply is not satisfactory to us.

Merger of the Indian Airlines with the Air India

*59. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to merge the Air India and the Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Hazardous radioactive element in a water cooler

*60. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a rare and hazardous radioactive element thorium was found in a water cooler in the nuclear fuel complex, Hyderabad and powder of the substance was found strewn all around the processing plant; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the result of the inquiry, if any, made into the matter and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b) A small quantity of thorium oxide powder was found mixed in a water cooler in the Nuclear Fuel Complex on 18th May, 1985. It has been ascertained after enquiries that nobody had consumed the water from that water cooler. A complaint was lodged with the police regarding the incident and, after investigations, one of the workers of the plant was suspected for this incident. The concerned employee has also been arrested and released on bail. He has also been placed under suspension. Necessary security measures have been taken so that such incidents do not recur.

Indo-Pak joint commission on bilateral issues

246. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:
DR. H. P. SHARMA:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Pak Joint Commission recently had a meeting at New Delhi; and

(b) if so, to what extent the various bilateral issues between the two countries have been resolved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some progress was made at this meeting. Among the decisions